

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending. Claims 6, 7, 10, 16, 21, and 35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as would be allowable if
5 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the allowable subject matter in these claims.

Adopting the Examiner's suggestions, independent claims 1, 9, and 15 are amended herein to
10 incorporate the allowable subject matter. More specifically, dependent claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 1, including all of the limitations thereof. Claim 6 is therefore cancelled and claim 7 is correspondingly amended to properly depend on claim 1. Similarly, dependent claims 10 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 9 and 15, respectively, including all of the respective limitations thereof. Claims 10 and 16 are
15 cancelled accordingly. Claim 22 is amended per the amendment to claim 15. No claim is newly added. No new matter is introduced. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, and 17-35 are pending.

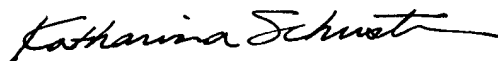
The Amendments presented herein encompass a bona fide attempt to expedite the
20 prosecution and forward the application to allowance. By reciting subject matter not reached by prior art of record under applicable laws, the new grounds of rejections presented in the aforementioned Office action with respect to the independent claims 1, 9, and 15 are rendered moot and non-applicable.

Reliance is placed on *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ 2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *Ex parte Kochan*, 131 USPQ 204 (Bd. App. 1960) for the allowance of dependent claims 2-5, 7-8, 11-14, and 17-35, since they differ in scope from their respective parent independent claims 1, 9, and 15 which are submitted to be patentable.

This Response/Amendment is submitted to be complete and proper in that it places the present application in a condition for allowance without adding new matters or raising new issues. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance of all pending claims are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is sincerely invited to telephone the undersigned at 650-331-8413 for discussing an Examiner's Amendment or any suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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